



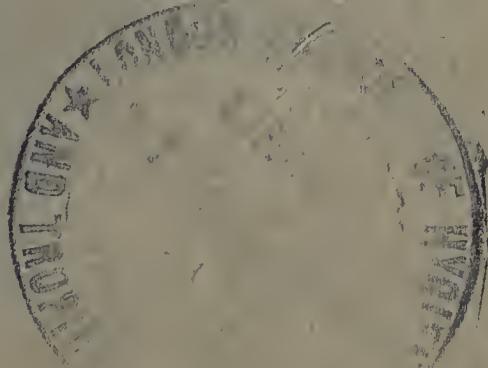
BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1959



JUNE, 1960.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

I submit for your information and consideration my second annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough occupies an enviable situation, lying as it does between the New Forest on the North and the sea to the South. On the West its boundary is the Walkford Brook which separates it from the Borough of Christchurch, and the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and on the East it is bounded by the estuary of the Lymington River with its splendid yachting facilities. The area is largely agricultural with two main centres of population, the ancient town of Lymington to the East and the urban area of New Milton to the West. Lesser centres of population are at Hordle, Milford and Pennington. The area has a steadily rising population, largely by immigration, and many light industries have been established in what is, after all, the kind of place where people like to live. The subsoil varies from clay to gravel and the climate is equable.

METEOROLOGICAL DATA 1959

The following figures have been kindly supplied by the Director of the Efford Experimental Horticulture Station.

	Sunshine hours	Rainfall inches		Sunshine hours	Rainfall inches
January	109.2	3.00	July	321.0	1.68
February	67.2	0.25	August	246.9	1.95
March	142.1	2.61	September	252.2	0.38
April	182.4	2.07	October	159.8	3.00
May	256.6	0.93	November	74.9	3.61
June	241.0	0.60	December	41.6	6.49

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area : 13,730 acres.

Population : Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1959—
25,780

Number of inhabited houses : 9,532.

Rateable value : £455,522.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £1,771.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959

(as supplied by the Registrar General)

	Total	Male	Female	Borough of Lymington	England and Wales
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Live Births

Total	...	313	156	157
Legitimate	...	284	146	138
Illegitimate	...	29	11	18

Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.08)

per 1,000 population	12.14	16.5
after application of comparability factor	13.11	

Illegitimate Live Births

per cent of total live births	9.26
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	Total	Male	Female	Borough of Lymington	England and Wales
Still Births					
Total	8	3	5		
Legitimate	8	3	5		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Still Birth Rate	per 1,000 live and still births			24.92	20.7
Total Live and Still Births				321	
Infant Deaths					
Deaths under 1 year of age					
Total	8	5	3		
Legitimate	7	5	2		
Illegitimate	1	—	1		
Deaths under 4 weeks of age					
Total	6	4	2		
Legitimate	5	4	1		
Illegitimate	1	—	1		
Deaths under 1 week of age					
Total	3	2	1		
Legitimate	2	2	—		
Illegitimate	1	—	1		
Infant Mortality Rate					
per 1,000 live births			Total	25.56	22.0
per 1,000 live births			Legitimate	24.67	
per 1,000 live births			Illegitimate	34.48	
Neonatal Mortality Rate					
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births				19.17	15.8
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate					
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births				9.58	
Perinatal Mortality Rate					
(Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)				34.27	
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)				Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate					
per 1,000 (live and still) births				Nil	0.38
Deaths	411	204	207		
Death Rate (comparability factor 0.75)					
per 1,000 population				15.9	11.6
after application of comparability factor				11.9	
Special Causes					
Death Rate per 1,000 population					
Tuberculosis				0.04	0.09
Pneumonia				0.43	0.61
Influenza				0.08	0.18
Cancer (lung and bronchus)				0.69	0.46
(all causes)				3.02	2.14
Causes of Death :				Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	—	—

9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	8	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	17	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	—	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	23	20	
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	23	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	58	41
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	16	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	5	7
22.	Influenza	...	—	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	6	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	9	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	6	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	13	18
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	5	6
35.	Suicide	...	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	—	—
Total (all causes)				204 207

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following notifications were received during the year:

Scarlet Fever	...	10	Acute Encephalitis	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	35	Dysentery	...	7
Measles	...	579	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	
Poliomyelitis (P)	...	1	Pneumonia	...	13

TUBERCULOSIS

	Number on register at 31.12.59	303	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm	
			M	F	M	F
New Notifications 1959		11	7	2	1	1
Transfers from other areas		10	6	2	1	1

LUNG CANCER

Eighteen deaths from lung cancer occurred. This is thought to be the highest number of deaths to have occurred from this cause in the Borough in one year and is a 50% increase on the 1958 total. 68 such deaths have occurred in the Borough during the past five years. It is worthy of recall that in April, 1959, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, speaking to the Royal Society of Health, said:

"There is the strongest statistical evidence to show that "the more cigarettes a man smokes the more liable he is "to develop cancer of the lung, though other factors "certainly play a part. Should not the prudent man "accept this and act upon it?"

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)

No action was required under the above section during the year.

HOUSING

During the year 375 houses were built by private enterprise; no houses were built by the Council. The continuing demand for Council accommodation is shown by the waiting list of 378 which includes 91 applications for Old People's accommodation.

Council owned property at 31.12.59.:

Pre-War permanent houses	...	439
Post-War permanent houses	...	774
Pre-fabs	...	100
Conversion (Fairlea Flats)	...	4
		—
		1,317
		—

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The chief commercial use of the river is by the British Railways in their Ferry Service to and from the Isle of Wight; one business house uses the river for conveying their merchandise from the Isle of Wight to Lymington. Other than the above the primary use of the river is for yachting and boat building.

SHIPPING ENTERING PORT	
Coastwise vessels	59
Foreign vessels	Nil

The Mooring Station for infected ships remains as reported in previous years.

No cases of infectious diseases were reported during the year.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The only public swimming bath in the borough lies alongside the tidal estuary of the Lymington river and the adjoining mud flats. It is an open air pool some 440ft. by 140ft. with a surface area just under 1½ acres. The bottom is of gravel and the sides of rough concrete. The depth varies from 3ft. to 10ft. and it is estimated to hold nearly 2 million gallons of water. The pool is filled through sluices from the estuary at high water and the water is changed at irregular and infrequent intervals throughout the season. Because of seepage, leakage, and evaporation from its large surface the pool is topped up daily by pump from the river at high water.

The water used for filling and topping up is sea water diluted with the water of the Lymington river and is always to some extent polluted. The salinity is approximately 50% of sea water, but this tends to increase in the bath through the effect of evaporation. No mechanical circulation or filtration takes place.

The water in the bath is treated with sodium hypochlorite solution 15% broadcast by hand over the surface of the pool as evenly as practicable and in addition 100% chlorine gas is added to the topping up water by means of Wallace and Tiernan Chlorinating Plant, giving a dosage of approximately 10 parts per million in the added water.

The bacterial purity of the pool progressively improves after filling as the result of the repeated applications of chlorine, both to the pool in general and to the topping up water. In addition the purifying effects of sunlight are most marked in a large area of shallow water such as this.

Thirty-six samples of water were submitted to the laboratory during the swimming season. In general the bacterial counts were low, almost surprisingly so for a pool of this nature.

B.Coli Type No. 1 were found on a number of occasions but in small numbers and it is not felt that there was danger to the health of the public using the baths, particularly in the light of the report of the Public Health Laboratory Service on " Sewage Contamination of Coastal Bathing Waters in England & Wales".

None the less there is no reason for complacency and all practicable means must be taken to maintain a low bacterial count throughout the swimming season. Continuous filtration and chlorination is virtually impossible in a pool of this nature and size.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

Medical Officer of Health—

D. J. N. McNab, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

N. Raw, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—

J. G. Jenkins, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

First Additional Public Health Inspector—

M. G. Tomkins, Cert.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(2) Laboratory Facilities :

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King. We are greatly indebted to Dr. King and his technicians for their ever willing advice and assistance.

Chemical analysis is performed by a Public Analyst, Mr. A. S. Carlos.

(3) Hospitals :

Lymington & District (King Edward VII Memorial)

Hospital General

Milford-on-Sea War Memorial Hospital

General

Lymington Infirmary

Chronic Sick

White House Children's Sanatorium, Milford-on-Sea

Barton-on-Sea Maternity Home

Infectious Disease is treated at Southampton Isolation Hospital.

(4) Tuberculosis :

The clinic facilities for the treatment, prevention, and after care of this infection are provided jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. The clinic serving this area is held in the County Council Health Centre, Millhams Street, Christchurch, and is conducted by Dr. Stuart Robertson, who is also Medical Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit. Dr. Robertson holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. A specialist Health Visitor is provided by the County Council.

A joint voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee is run for the Borough of Lymington, Christchurch, and the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. The Committee is under the chairmanship of Lady Manners and is widely representative. Much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of money, and in service to local sufferers.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ambulance Service

The district is served from the main Ambulance Station at Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington—Tel. Lymington 2331. There is a sub-station at New Milton.

Nursing Service

6 District Nurses and Mid-Wives are provided. In addition three Health Visitors work in the area.

Home Help Service

This service and the Nursing Service are administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Home Help Organiser is Miss W. P. Stevens, Druitt Building, Christchurch—Tel. Christchurch 900.

Ante Natal Clinic

County Council Health Clinic,

“Hillcroft,” New Street, Lymington

2nd/4th Wednesdays in the month at 2 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres

Baptist School Hall, Ashley, New Milton

3rd Monday

Women's Institute Hall, Hordle

3rd Thursday

Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington

Every Friday

Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea

4th Thursday

British Legion Hall, New Milton

2nd and 4th Wednesday

Methodist Church Hall, Barton-on-Sea

1st and 3rd Tuesday

Women's Institute Hall, Pennington

2nd and 4th Tuesday

School Health Services

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor Ailment and Special Clinics are held in the County Council Health Centre, Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington.

Smallpox Vaccination

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at the Child Welfare Centres. The records are maintained by the County Medical Officer. Family doctors may, and normally do, charge for certificates of vaccination.

261 Primary vaccinations and 158 re-vaccinations were reported.

There has been a considerable reduction in the proportion of babies vaccinated from 79.1% in 1958 to 66.1%; this still compares favourably with the County average of 65.6%.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Centres and Schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

The following inoculations were carried out during the year :

	Primary	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation alone	109	370
Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough ...	10	15
Triple Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus ...	272	58
Whooping Cough only	25	1
Diphtheria/Tetanus combined	12	3
	428	447

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors, but it can also be obtained at Child Welfare Centres, and mass vaccination at factories, business premises or special sessions may be carried out by County Medical Staff. Special sessions were, for example conducted at local factories, workplaces and multiple stores.

Poliomyelitis record cards received during the year 1959 :

4,079—2nd injections 2,877—3rd injections

Extension of age group to 40 years—February, 1960.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

May I thank all in the department for their help and co-operation during the year; in particular my appreciation to Dr. McNab for his kindness and advice, and also Mr. Jenkins whose assistance to me has been of the utmost value.

Water Supply:—

Water to the Borough is supplied from two undertakings, Lymington Town being served by the Corporation owned works at Ampress and the remainder of the district by the West Hampshire Water Company. Mains water is generally available throughout the whole of the Borough, there being only a few outlying dwellings dependent upon wells for their source of supply.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

This undertaking is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The source of the supply is from two bore holes, one of 16" dia. and 376ft. deep and the other 18" dia. and 378ft. deep. The output from these works during the year was 160,181,000 gallons, an increase of 10,973,000 gallons over the previous year. Work commenced on the new bore hole in December and it is expected to be in operation by early summer.

16 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 2 for chemical analysis and the reports in all cases were satisfactory.

New mains laid during the year were 1,485 yards, consisting of:

520 yards of 3" dia.
215 yards of 4" dia.
600 yards of 6" dia.
150 yards of 8" dia.

New tappings during the year totalled 59, including 11 services on the new Council housing site at Broomfield Lane.

WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY serving

New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle.

The company continues to serve the district by extending their mains where required and during the year laid 3,841 yards of new mains as under:—

293 yards of 8" main
610 yards of 6" main
130 yards of 4" main
2055 yards of 3" main
180 yards of 2" main
519 yards of 1½" main
54 yards of 1¼" main

New tappings totalled 357.

13 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and the reports were satisfactory.

Analysis of samples :

EXAMINATION	MAINS SUPPLIES		Wells	RESULTS	
	Lymington	W.H.W. Co.		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	16	13	27	38	18
Chemical	2	—	—	2	—

The 18 unsatisfactory samples were in respect of 4 private wells and in 2 cases the water was eventually made good following repairs and treatment, but the remaining 2 wells although improved somewhat are still not reliable. Unfortunately no mains water is available. The users have been advised to boil the water before use.

Number of occupied dwellings in the Borough	9,532
Number provided with water from the mains	9,518
Estimated population served by mains water	25,731

Results of the analysis of the water taken from the Lymington Town's supply are shown below. Samples taken October 1959 and direct from bore as indicated and prior to chlorination.

(a) Physical Examination	Number of Bore		
	No. 3		No. 4
	expressed as parts per million		
Temperature at source	18.0 °C		18.5 °C
Colour	Colourless		Colourless
Appearance	Clear		Clear
Taste	None		None
Smell	None		None
(b) General Chemical Examination			
Reaction, pH	7.75		7.9
Free Carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	Nil		Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	0.549		0.461
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	0.346		0.109
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	Nil		Nil
Nitric Nitrogen, as N	4.00		2.39
Hardness (state test used) as CaCO ₃	EDTA		EDTA
	Temporary 198.0		159.2
	Permanent 40.8		47.8
Permanganate figure (4 hours 80°F), as O	0.31		0.29
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	160.0		175.0
Total Solids	368.0		294.0
(c) Mineral Analysis			
Calcium, as Ca	71.5		60.5
Magnesium, as Mg	9.8		11.5
Sodium, as Na	42.3		43.6
Carbonate, as CO ₃	96.0		105.0
Chloride, as Cl	29.0		24.0
Sulphate, as SO ₄	94.3		63.8
Nitrate, as NO ₃	17.7		10.6
Iron	Nil		0.10
Fluoride, as F	0.240		0.190

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Of drainage defects found during the year, 43 were remedied, one after the service of a Statutory Notice. 6 dwellings were connected to the main sewer and 3 others were provided with new cesspool drainage systems.

Nearly 10% of the dwellings in the Borough are without main drainage facilities. These houses are mainly sited in the more rural parts of the area and the prospect of sewers being provided is remote. It should be stated, however, that the greater number of the houses concerned are provided with adequate and reasonably satisfactory private drainage schemes, as under :

Total dwellings not on sewer	...	...	918
Dwellings with cesspools or septic tanks	...	...	760
Dwellings with flush sanitation	...	...	752
Dwellings with Earth or Chemical Closets	...	...	166

The scheme for enlarging the Barton Sewage Works has been approved and also the Peters Lane scheme for replacing the two small ejectors with a new pumping station.

In addition sewers have been extended on the various new building estates.

Public Cleansing:—

There is no change in Refuse Collection and disposal which is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The collection of house refuse is once weekly and there are two collections weekly in the main shopping areas. All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a central site in the Hordle district.

Investigations are proceeding to find a suitable site for future refuse disposal as the existing site is expected to be filled in about twelve months. The continued development of the Borough has brought a corresponding increase in the amount of refuse to be collected and precipitated the need.

Rivers and Streams:—

No particular action has been taken regarding rivers and streams. Samples were taken from the Danestream at points from the Sea Road Bridge, Milford, to the stream in Sway Road, Tiptoe. 6 samples were taken and all contained faecal coli probably of animal origin.

The stream passing through Becton Bunny, Barton-on-Sea, was reported as being polluted by oil and investigations were made. Eventually the source of the contamination was traced to a factory situated about 1½ miles away. Here all waste oil from the cooling plant was discharging into the stormwater drain and eventually emptying into Becton Bunny. The firm in question readily dealt with the matter and installed a properly constructed oil trap.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES TAKEN BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	...	114	98	16
Bottle Rinses	...	90	72	18
Orange Juice	...	2	2	—
Ice Cream	...	111	111	—
Water	...	58	40	18
Watercourses	...	6	—	—
Sea Water Baths	...	36	33	3

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections during 1959 :

DESCRIPTION	Inspec- tions	Action reqd.	Reme- died	NOTICES	
				In- formal	Form- al
Milk and Dairies	145	11	9	1	1
Dwellinghouses:					
(Housing Act)	473	60	25	6	5
(Public Health Act)	139	10	7	4	3
(Rent Act)	15	2	—	—	8
Standard Grants	108	—	—	—	—
Council House Applications ...	227	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests ...	1126	46	43	7	1
Water Supplies	64	6	3	2	—
Camp Sites/					
Moveable Dwellings ...	407	24	20	3	1
Schools	28	9	8	—	—
Factories Act	332	37	36	5	—
Clean Air Act	18	4	4	—	—
Business Premises	3	—	—	—	—
Food & Drugs Act, including					
Food Hygiene Regulations ...	785	79	66	18	—
Food Inspections	56	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	7	1	1	—	—
Slaughterhouse/Knackers Yard	176	3	3	1	—
Refuse Sites and					
Insanitary accumulations	27	3	3	2	—
Piggeries	2	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	24	—	—	—	—
Notifiable & other Diseases ...	24	—	—	—	—
House Pests	2	2	2	1	—
Sea Water Baths	3	—	—	—	—
Watercourses	27	4	4	—	—
Miscellaneous	130	8	8	—	—
Total	4348	309	242	50	19
Rats & Mice	2872	425	425	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	50	1	1	—	—
Grand Total ...	7270	735	668	50	19

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

Factories in the Borough total 151; 143 power factories and 8 non-Power. Defects found and results of action taken are as follows :

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Non-Power Factories ...	8	23)	37	36
Power Factories ...	143	309)		

Analysis of Defects

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences :—		
(a) Insufficient	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	27	26
Other offences	7	7

Types of Factories Registered

Builders and Ancillary Works	29	30
Garages	27	28
Dairies	4	4
Boat Builders and Ancillary Works	5	5
Tailors	3	2
Radio, Cycle and Electrical	14	14
Bakehouses	8	7
Laundries	4	3
Engineering	19	25
Boot Repairs	7	9
Upholstery	6	7
Printing	4	4
Miscellaneous	21	16

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

Complaints during the year totalled 82 and of these action was required in 42 instances. The nature of the complaints and result of action are shown below:—

Nature of Complaint	Found	Remedied
Drainage defects	11	9
Smoke nuisances	5	5
Pollution of Watercourses	3	3
Accumulations and Deposits	3	3
Housing Defects	8	4
House Pests	6	6
Keeping of animals	3	3
Miscellaneous	3	3

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT AND REGULATIONS

There are 4 registered dairies and 41 registered distributors of milk in the Borough. There are four pasteurising establishments, one has a H.T.S.T. plant and the other three pasteurise under the Holder process. Powers of licensing have been delegated to this authority by the County Council and the plants and premises are subject to inspection by officers of the Public Health Department. Samples of pasteurised milk are taken at least once monthly from each pasteurising establishment; the samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Boscombe, and the results are reported to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Samples of Raw Milk are also taken and laboratory examinations of washed bottles are carried out periodically.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. of samples taken	Appropriate Tests	Samples Passed	Samples Failed
Pasteurised	2	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	2	—
T.T. Pasteurised	48	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	48	—
Raw Milk	16	Methylene Blue	10	6
	48	Brucella Abortus	39	9

Two samples of milk taken from a milk dealer indicated the presence of *Brucella Abortus*. As a result of this the dairyman was instructed to pasteurise the milk concerned. Further samples were taken from the farms supplying the dairy and eventually two cows from a farm outside the Borough were found to be positive to the *Brucella Abortus* Ring Test.

The milk from these cows was excluded from the supply to the local dairy and after 3 negative samples were obtained the instruction to pasteurise was withdrawn. Altogether 46 samples excluding the original two were taken, 40 from individual cows and the remainder were bulk samples.

Failures of the Methylene Blue Test at this dairy were reported to the Divisional Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, under whose supervision the dairy farm comes.

No failures occurred in any of the samples of pasteurised milk taken. This is very gratifying and is no mean achievement on the part of the dairymen when one considers that between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons of milk are pasteurised daily in the Borough.

Unsatisfactory reports were, however, received on samples of washed bottles. These occurred at three dairies and on investigation were found to be due to some mechanical fault in the washing machines in two cases and a weak detergent solution in the third case. In no case was the colony count excessively high and there was no corresponding failure in the Reductase Test of milk sampled at the same time.

There is no legal standard of cleanliness for milk bottles, but the tests nevertheless, do provide a guide to the efficiency of bottle washing machines.

Other matters dealt with at dairy premises were Want of Cleanliness of premises, defective Indicating Thermometers, repairs and redecorations, provision of overalls and the proper keeping of recorders.

There are 51 milk producers in the Borough of Lymington holding Tuberculin Tested Licences and 2 others are non-designated milk producers.

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse in the Borough.

POST MORTEM INSPECTION (figures for 1958 in brackets)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep& Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	38 (116)	63 (85)	45 (36)	119 (12)	911 (1104)
Number inspected	38	63	45	119	911
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	2	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	33	2	7	114
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis	21.0 (18.1)	52.0 (42.3)	4.4 (8.3)	5.75 (—)	12.0 (4.2)
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tub- erculosis	— (—)	1.5 (3.5)	— (—)	— (—)	1.9 (1.4)

KNACKERS' YARDS

There is only one Knacker's Yard in the Borough.

The number of horses slaughtered at the Knacker's Yard during the year was 17 and 48 horse carcases were received during the same period.

The number of other animals slaughtered was 69.

Matters relating to redecoration and other minor contraventions were dealt with on request.

The following foods were examined at retail shops and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Tins of Meat	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	81
" " Fruit & Vegetables	...	" "	7
" " Fish	...	" "	12
" " Chicken	...	" "	5
Mutton	...	Decomposition	58lbs.
Livers	..		9lbs.
Beef (Imported)	...	Bone taint	65lbs.
Pork	...	Decomposition	35lbs.
Sausages	...	Scour	5lbs.
Sausage Binder	...	Contamination	96lbs.
Fish	...	Stale	67lbs.
Pigs Plucks	...	Decomposition	7
Chickens	...	" "	189
Shredded Wheat	..	Damaged	33pkts.
Cake Mix	...	" "	21pkts.
Biscuits	...	" "	22pkts.
Margarine	...	Tainted	24pkts.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Details of specimens received from Lymington Borough :

Nose and Throat	...	113	Other human	...	13
Faeces and Urine	...	41	Other sanitary	...	107
Food	...	2	Water	...	100
Milk	...	126	Ice Cream	...	106
			Total	...	608

The above details have been supplied by Dr. G. J. G. King of the Laboratory, Bournemouth, and the specimens include those sent by General Practitioners and others.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Sampling — Food Premises — Ice Cream

Report of the Chief Sampling Officer (Mr. J. S. Preston) relating to the samples of Food and Drugs, taken in Lymington Borough during the year 1959/60.

1. I beg to report that during the year ended 31st March, 1960, 335 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Lymington Borough Council.

2. Milk Samples

301 samples of milk—54 being of the Channel Islands variety—were obtained, and these were satisfactory except in seven instances. Legal proceedings were taken against two vendors as follows :—

(i) A sample of Channel Islands milk, which had been processed and bottled by a firm of dairymen proved to be 25 per cent. deficient of the minimum fat content required for milk of this variety. Checks were made of the milk consigned to the dairy, these being satisfactory, and it appeared that the shortage of fat may have been due to inadequate mixing of the milk during the bottling process. In view of the serious deficiency it was considered necessary to institute legal proceedings against the partners of the dairy firm, and these resulted in a fine of £9 together with costs of £11 18s. 0d. being imposed.

(ii) Following an informal check of the milk supplied to a wholesale dairy within the Borough, samples were subsequently taken at the producers' farm from three churns of milk which were awaiting collection by the dairy proprietor. The milk in two of the churns proved to be adulterated with added water to the extent of 8 per cent. and 5 per cent respectively. Corresponding samples taken on the following day were satisfactory. The firm responsible was prosecuted in respect of the two adulterated samples and fined a total of £60 and ordered to pay £18 8s. 0d. costs.

The defendants in this case had been convicted of similar offences in the previous year.

The remaining two unsatisfactory milk samples consisted of hot milk, and were purchased at separate cafes. In each case the sample was found to contain added water, the amounts being 10 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively. The discrepancies appeared to be due to condensation which had occurred during the heating of the milk by means of steam injection. In the circumstances, and having regard to what was accepted as an inadvertent cause of adulteration, warnings were given to the proprietors of the cafes, who were advised to ensure that any hot milk sold by them was heated in a manner which would avoid any question of adulteration.

3. Miscellaneous Samples

34 samples of various articles other than milk were obtained and all were free from complaint.

4. General

Attention was given to the labels and descriptions of food and drugs, in order to ensure that these complied with the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Sampling — Food Premises — Ice Cream

Food premises in the Borough total ...	323
Restaurants, Licensed Premises, Hotels, Clubs, etc. ...	104
School Canteens	18
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	15
Butchers	24
Greengrocers	18
Grocery and Provisions	83
Bakers	10
Confectioners	43
Miscellaneous	8

Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream:—

Grocers	46
Cafes and Confectioners	42
Confectioners only	40
General Stores	20
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	5
Others	2

Number of registered dairies 5

Number of premises registered for the preparation of Preserved Foods:—

Fried Fish premises	8
Grocers	24
Butchers	24
Bakers	5

Inspection of premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act ...	111
Inspection of premises registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations ...	145
Inspection of other food premises, including visits under the Food Hygiene Regulations ..	674

Two complaints regarding alleged food contamination were reported. In one case the complaint was of foreign matter in a fruit drop. This transpired to be particles of aluminium abraded from moulds and trays used in the manufacturing process.

The other case was of a fly in a sausage manufactured outside the Borough. A warning was given in this case.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

During the year 79 instances were found of non-compliance with the requirements of these regulations, 66 were remedied including matters outstanding from 1958.

Analysis of items dealt with :—

Redecorations	...	...	...	...	...	35
Repair to closets	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
New wash basin provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
New hot water supply installed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoking in food rooms	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	12

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the Borough. 111 samples of Ice Cream supplied by 7 manufacturers were taken as follows :—

Samples	Number	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
		1	2	3	4
Ice Cream	106	100	4	1	1
Ice Lollies	5	5	—	—	—

Samples in Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory. The Grade 3 and 4 samples were from premises which, in the former case, had a refrigeration breakdown and in the latter case was possibly due to keeping of serving scoops in water to which no sterilising agents had been added. In the case of the refrigeration breakdown, the consignment was withdrawn.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 19 licensed camping sites in the Borough allowing for 1,575 moveable dwellings during the summer season. Ten of the sites are used residentially, and following a survey in 1959, 345 caravans were found to be in use as permanent homes. The following statistics were obtained during the survey. Figures in brackets are those for 1958.

Number of licensed sites used residentially ...	...	10	(10)
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted ...	...	954	(954)
Total number of moveable dwellings used as permanent homes ...	...	345	(322)
Average number of units per van ...	...	1.8	(2.12)
Number of vans occupied by adults only ...	...	246	(235)
Number of vans with children ...	...	88	(87)
Cases of overcrowding ...	...	6	(3)
Number of adults living in caravans ...	...	593	
Number of children living in caravans ...	...	131	
Number with Husband and Wife only ...	...	130	
Number with Husband and Wife and 1 child ...	...	56	

Number with one person only	...	...	...	95
Others	...	...	...	64
Movement of families:				
Families (a) leaving sites	...	...	...	86
(b) moving on to sites	...	...	...	101
Permanent caravan dwellers:				
1952—174 caravans used permanently				
1956—260	"	"	"	
1958—322	"	"	"	
1959—345	"	"	"	

There are additional caravans distributed on plots throughout the district, these are occupied by families who are building on the plot, by persons whose employment requires them to live close to their work, and on a chalet estate in the New Milton area. There are no itinerant caravan dwellers.

There has been a slight increase in the number of residential caravans on the ten sites so used. It will be observed that there is no increase in the actual number of the caravans on the sites, only that there is a correspondingly less number used for summer occupation.

Of the ten sites used residentially, seven are provided with main drainage including flush sanitation, one has flush sanitation with a private drainage scheme, and two sites have chemical closets. All sites have waste water disposal points, these being connected to the main sewer where this facility is available. Mains water is available on all sites, one site only has a wash room, two only with baths, and one with showers. The caravans themselves are generally speaking of a good type, with stoves for heating, electric or Calor gas lighting and cooking facilities.

Unsatisfactory conditions were rectified in 20 matters. Details are as follows:—

Defective or unsatisfactory drainage	...	...	...	7
Unclean closets	..	...	...	6
Unauthorised Camping	...	...	...	6
Bug infestation	...	...	...	1

HOUSING

Action under the Housing and Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwellings made fit or in which defects were remedied after informal action	...	...	...	31
2. After formal action	...	...	...	3
3. Number of dwellings demolished as a result of				
	Formal action	...	4	
	Informal action	..	1	
4. Number of houses closed	...	...	...	Nil
5. Number of houses where undertakings				
	have been accepted	...	Nil	
6. Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	15
7. Number of families re-housed by the Council	...	..	4	

227 investigations were made regarding applications for Council houses and reports submitted to the Committee in 204 instances, 16 families living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed by the Council as well as the 4 Slum Clearance cases as mentioned in 7 above.

RENT ACT 1957

3 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1959 and action taken during the year as follows:—				
Number of applications for certificates .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	3
Number of decisions not to issue certificates .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	1
Number of decisions to issue certificates				
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	2
(b) in respect of all defects .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of undertakings given by landlords .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of certificates issued .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	4
(2 in respect of applications made in 1958)				
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	Nil

NOTE :—The decision not to issue a certificate was at the request of the applicant who withdrew his application.

It is apparent that this Act is not being used fully by tenants of rented dwellings in the Borough and I can only conclude that this is due to the satisfactory relationship between landlords and tenants in respect of repairs to properties.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Standard Grants

This Act came into operation on the 14th June. Under the new Act, the Council are required to make limited grants in respect of existing dwellings providing, for the exclusive use of the occupants, what are described as the "standard amenities".

The amenities are :—

1. The provision of a fixed bath, or shower, in a bathroom.
2. The provision of a wash hand basin.
3. The provision of a hot water supply.
4. The provision of a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling.
5. The provision of satisfactory facilities for storing food.

Certain safeguards are laid down limiting the grant, generally, to pre 1944 dwellings, to dwellings in good repair, and to dwellings with a life of at least 15 years. The maximum grant payable per dwelling is £155.

Applications dealt with between June and December, 1959, are as follows :—

Number of applications received for Standard Grants .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	33
Number of applications refused .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	8
Number of applications approved .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	25
Work completed by December, 1959 .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	5

Details of refusals—

- (a) Dwelling already provided with standard amenities 3
- (b) Dwelling converted to flats since 1958 2
- (c) Dwelling not considered to have a life of 15 years 2
- (d) Applicant unwilling to provide all standard amenities 1

Works so far completed—

Provision of a bath in a bathroom .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	3
Provision of a wash hand basin .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	4
Provision of a hot water supply .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	4
Provision of a larder .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	4

RODENT CONTROL

There is one Rodent Officer/Operator employed by the Council. The following table indicates the work carried out in the Borough under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- culture	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1959 as a result of:—					
(a) notification	—	376	2	45	423
(b) otherwise	9	322	—	—	331
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	—	—	—	2	2
Minor ...	6	386	—	28	420
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice	—	—	—	3	3
4. No. of infested premises treated by the Local Authority	6	386	—	33	425

The total visits made were 2,872 and 2,226 poison baits were laid.

Notification of infestation has risen, but there is a slight decrease in the actual number of infestations found. Operational work on farms is not undertaken by the Council and in these cases advice is given by the inspecting officer.

The poison used is Warfarin which has proved effective for the destruction of both rats and mice.

In addition the Rodent Officer destroyed 52 wasps nests and 2 hornets nests.

N. Raw,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL REMARKS

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

This was a "measles year" with the usual high incidence of this infection. Infectious disease was otherwise negligible.

The population increased by 570 though deaths exceeded births by 98. The continued high rate of immigration is noteworthy. The population has increased by 23.1% since the War, very largely by movement into the Borough.

The birth rate fell and remains well below the national figure, even when allowance is made for the age and sex distribution of the local population. The trend here seems the reverse of the national trend which has been upward for the past five years.

The death rate fell but remains high in comparison with the national figure. However, when the age and sex distribution of the population is taken into account, the rate compares favourably with the national figure.

No material change took place in sewage disposal. Two major schemes have been approved and at the time of writing the sewerage of Lavender and Heath Roads has commenced.

In conclusion I would again thank the Mayor and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and in particular Mr. Raw and the Additional Inspectors for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health

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